

# **Neighborhood Crime Stories**

## **Area 4**

### **Housebreak on School St.**

**10/4/2007 7:43:00 PM**

The victim returned home to find no signs of a break-in, but his laptop and fish missing from his apartment.

**History:** There have been two other breaks within a few blocks since April.

**Protecting Yourself:** Please scroll to the bottom of this bulletin to read about Home Safety Tips.

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### **Reports of Gunshots on Columbia St. & Norfolk St.**

**10/5/2007 2:27:00 AM**

Residents from both Norfolk St & Worcester St reported hearing 5-6 gunshots coming from the direction of Columbia St. Officers searched the area and did not find any evidence or suspicious activity.

**History:** There have been 4 other reports involving gun shots or the report of hearing shots since February.

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## **Cambridgeport**

### **Street Robbery on Green St. & Brookline St.**

**10/4/2007 3:29:00 PM**

The victim left work at the Middle East by the rear alley and an unknown suspect immediately grabbed the handle bar of his bike and held a knife at his face and demanded the bike. The suspect was wearing a hooded sweatshirt.

**History:** There have been two other breaks within a few blocks since April.

**Protecting Yourself:** Please scroll to the bottom of this bulletin to read about how to protect yourself from street robberies.

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### **Housebreak on Watson St.**

**10/6/2007 1:05:00 PM**

The victim states that an unknown suspect entered his apartment through a window. The suspect tried to push a window fan in to gain access, then cut another screen, but the window was locked and finally succeeded in pushing another window fan. Items stolen were a laptop, a marble chess board, many CD's and several dollars worth of change.

**History:** There have been 11 other breaks within a few blocks of this location since the beginning of the year.

**Protecting Yourself:** Please scroll to the bottom of this bulletin to read about Home Safety Tips.

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## North Cambridge

**Drug Arrest on Rindge Ave.**

**10/4/2007 7:55:00 PM**

Lifaite Joamem was arrested for possession with intent to distribute class D drugs after an officer smelled marijuana in the parking lot. Three individuals were seen, and Joamem had a strong odor of burnt marijuana coming off of him. Upon being questioned, he became nervous and uncooperative at times. Recovered were 16 baggies of marijuana, two cell phones, and ten dollars.

**History:** There have been three other drug incidents within a few blocks of this location since the beginning of the year.

**How to Help:** You do not have to tolerate drug dealers and drug users in your neighborhood. You can be a part of the solution by offering information on suspected activity. Contact the 24-Hour Anonymous Drug Tip Hot Line:

**617-349-3359**

Please [click here](#) for more information on the hot line.

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## West Cambridge

**Larceny at 2 Longfellow Park**

**10/7/2007 3:30:00 PM**

The victim states that she left her backpack on the sink while she used the bathroom and that when she exited someone had stolen it.

**Suspect Information:** Witnesses in the lobby saw a white male and a white female sitting down. The white female got up, entered the restroom and returned with a black book bag on her shoulder and looked at the male who then got up and followed her out. The female is described as 5'0, shoulder length brown hair, wearing a dark grey sweat top and dark pants. The male is described as 5'9, beard, dark baseball hat, set of silver string beads (i.e. Mardi Gras beads).

**History:** This is the sixth incident of larceny from person within a few blocks and the third at this location on Longfellow Park this year.

**Protecting Yourself:** Never leave personal items of value unattended, especially in public places like restrooms. Many criminals will spend all day waiting for these crimes of opportunity as they are typically easy to commit undetected.

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## **Sector 1**

**East Cambridge - MIT Area - Inman/Harrington**

### **Developing Trends**

There is a developing housebreak pattern in Sector 1. There have now been 10 breaks since 9/8/07 occurring Thursdays through Sundays. The previous bulletin reported 8. Breaks have been through windows via cutting screens, prying open, or pushing in an air conditioning unit. Stolen items have mostly been electronics.

### **Home Safety Tips**

#### Landscaping

Shrubbery should be 18 to 24 inches away from all exits or entrances. Shrubbery should be no higher than 18 inches. Make sure all possible entrances and exit points and windows are visible, not concealed by shrubbery.

#### Areas That Should be Well-Lit

- Doorways
- Garage Doors
- Bay Doors
- All other entrance or exits
- Windows for visibility and to detect breakage
- Alcoves or hidden areas
- Basement entries

#### Types of Lighting

- Continuous Lighting
  - Motion-Sensored Lighting/Automatic floodlights that use infrared sensors to detect any type of motion.
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### **Protecting Yourself From Street Robberies**

You are always at a higher risk for being robbed late at night and on dark streets. Try to avoid these areas. Avoid public parks and areas with excessive trees and bushes. Avoid deserted areas and shortcuts. Walk close to the curb, except where cars pull in. Always walk briskly and confidently. Be aware of who is around you and what is going on. Have your keys ready so you can unlock your car door, or the door to your home. If you ever feel threatened, draw attention to yourself by making plenty of noise.

If robbed, always treat any firearm displayed by a robber as being loaded. Follow the robber's instructions. It is not worth being seriously hurt by resisting.

Study the robber as closely as possible. Take note of their race, age, height, sex, clothing, speech characteristics and scars. It may help to see if the robber resembles anyone famous that has similar features. Try to note which direction they flee after the robbery. Call 911 as soon as possible and relay this information.

When speaking to the Emergency Communication Center, give the exact address of where the robbery occurred. Describe exactly what happened as clearly as possible. Describe the robbers and let the dispatcher know if the person is still in view, how long ago they left and if any weapons were shown. Also state whether medical attention is needed.